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RUEHKB/AMEMBASSY BAKU 0125
RUEHBP/AMEMBASSY BAMAKO 0064
RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 0508
RUEHLB/AMEMBASSY BEIRUT 0705
RUEHEK/AMEMBASSY BISHKEK 0046
RUEHBU/AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES 0534
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0260
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0135
RUEHKA/AMEMBASSY DHAKA 0161
RUEHDJ/AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI 0052
RUEHLI/AMEMBASSY LISBON 0456
RUEHLJ/AMEMBASSY LJUBLJANA 0045
RUEHLS/AMEMBASSY LUSAKA 0068
RUEHMU/AMEMBASSY MANAGUA 0064
RUEHMK/AMEMBASSY MANAMA 0055
RUEHML/AMEMBASSY MANILA 0199
RUEHMN/AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO 0097
RUEHPL/AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS 0068
RUEHRB/AMEMBASSY RABAT 0559
RUEHRA/AMEMBASSY RIGA 0036
RUEHRH/AMEMBASSY RIYADH 0086
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 3683
RUEHTI/AMEMBASSY TIRANA 0955
RUEHTU/AMEMBASSY TUNIS 0077
RUEHYD/AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE 0213
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SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: FIRST MEMBERS ELECTED

USUN NEW Y 00000946 001.2 OF 005

¶1. SUMMARY: In May 9 elections, the General Assembly elected the 47 members of the newly-created UN Human Rights Council. While most seats were filled in only one round of balloting, three rounds were required to fill the six contested seats allocated to the Eastern European Group. Iran's candidacy for an Asian Group seat was defeated; it garnered only 58 votes. Venezuela likewise failed to get enough support. Following the election of all 47 members, GA President Eliasson drew lots to determine the staggering of terms for the newly elected Council, which will meet for the first time beginning June 19 in Geneva. END SUMMARY.

¶2. The election of forty-seven members of the newly-created Human Rights Council (HRC) was held in the UN General Assembly on May 9. Members to fill seats allocated to the WEOG, GRULAC, Asian and African Groups were elected in the first round of balloting. Three rounds of balloting were required to fill all of the Eastern European seats, which had offered 13 candidates for 6 seats. Voting for all candidates took place by secret ballot, as provided for in GA resolution

60/251, which established the Human Rights Council. Following the balloting, GA President Eliasson drew lots to determine which states from each regional group would be allocated one, two or three year terms in accordance with the resolution's provision for staggering of terms for the initial membership (and as described in GA document A/INF/60/6).

ELECTED MEMBERS AND TERMS

¶3. Below is a list of the UN Member States that were elected to the Human Rights Council. Parenthetical notations following each member state reflect the duration of each state's term of membership based on the drawing of lots.

Africa: Algeria (1 year), Cameroon (3 years), Djibouti (3 years), Gabon (2 years), Ghana (2 years), Mali (2 years), Mauritius (3 years), Morocco (1 year), Nigeria (3 years), Senegal (3 years), South Africa (1 year), Tunisia (1 year), and Zambia (2 years)

Asia: Bahrain (1 year), Bangladesh (3 years), China (3 years), India (1 year), Indonesia (1 year), Japan (2 years), Jordan (3 years), Malaysia (3 years), Pakistan (2 years), Philippines (1 year), Republic of Korea (2 years), Saudi Arabia (3 years), and Sri Lanka (2 years).

Eastern Europe: Azerbaijan (3 years), Czech Republic (1 year), Poland (1 year), Romania (2 years), Russian Federation (3 years), and Ukraine (2 years)

GRULAC: Argentina (1 year), Brazil (2 years), Cuba (3 years), Ecuador (1 year), Guatemala (2 years), Mexico (3 years), Peru (2 years), and Uruguay (3 years).

USUN NEW Y 00000946 002.2 OF 005

WEOG: Canada (3 years), Finland (1 year), France (2 years), Germany (3 years), Netherlands (1 year), Switzerland (3 years), and the United Kingdom (2 years).

Those announced candidates that were NOT elected to the Human Rights Council included: Iran, Iraq, Kyrgystan, Lebanon, Thailand, Albania, Armenia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Greece, and Portugal.

VOTING RESULTS

¶4. AFRICAN STATES: Africa presented a "clean slate" of 13 candidates which were elected in the first round of balloting to fill the 13 seats allocated to the group. (Note: On May 8, the African Group, after much internal discussion, endorsed a clean slate following Kenya's withdrawal of its candidacy. This altered the anticipated sub-regional allocation of seats within the region, moving one seat to allow a third North African seat for the group. An African Group member informally told USUN that the seat should revert to East Africa in subsequent HRC elections. End Note.) Voting details follow:

Algeria 168 votes
Cameroon 171 votes
Djibouti 172 votes
Gabon 175 votes
Ghana 183 votes
Mali 178 votes
Mauritius 178 votes
Morocco 178 votes
Nigeria 169 votes
Senegal 181 votes
South Africa 179 votes
Tunisia 171 votes
Zambia 182 votes

(In addition to the final African candidates for election,

Kenya (which had withdrawn its candidacy) received 9 votes,
and Tanzania, Egypt and Madagascar each received 1 vote.)

15. ASIAN STATES: 13 of the 18 announced candidates from the Asian Group were elected in the first round of balloting to fill the 13 seats allocated to the group. Voting details follow:

Elected:

Bahrain: 134 votes
Bangladesh 160 votes
China 146 votes
India 173 votes
Indonesia 165 votes

USUN NEW Y 00000946 003.2 OF 005

Japan 158 votes
Jordan 137 votes
Malaysia 158 votes
Pakistan 149 votes
Philippines 136 votes
Republic of Korea 148 votes
Saudi Arabia 126 votes
Sri Lanka 123 votes

NOT Elected:

Iran 58 votes
Iraq 52 votes
Kyrgystan 88 votes
Lebanon 112 votes
Thailand 120 votes

(In addition to the announced Asian candidates for election, Qatar and the Maldives each received 1 vote.)

16. EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES: With thirteen announced candidates for the region, three of the six vacancies for Eastern Europe were filled in the first round of balloting, 2 seats were filled in the second round, and the last seat was filled in a third round of balloting. Voting details follow:

First round:

Elected:

Czech Republic 105 votes
Poland 108 votes
Russian Federation 137 votes

NOT Elected in the first round of balloting:

Albania 31 votes
Armenia 70 votes
Azerbaijan 95 votes
Georgia 35 votes
Hungary 79 votes
Latvia 50 votes
Lithuania 92 votes
Romania 89 votes
Slovenia 91 votes
Ukraine 91 votes

(In addition to the announced Eastern European candidates for election, Serbia and Montenegro received 1 vote.)

Second Round of balloting: (Per the rules of procedure for elections, the six highest vote getters among those not elected in the first round competed for the three remaining seats.)

Elected:

Azerbaijan 103 votes
Ukraine 109 votes

USUN NEW Y 00000946 004.2 OF 005

NOT Elected in the second round of balloting:

Hungary 48 votes
Lithuania 86 votes
Romania 95 votes
Slovenia 88 votes

Third Round of balloting: (Per the rules of procedure, the two highest vote getters among those not elected in the second round competed for the one remaining seat)

Elected: Romania 98 votes
NOT elected: Slovenia 80 votes

17. LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES: The 8 seats were filled in the first round of balloting from among 10 announced candidates. Voting details follow:

Elected:
Argentina 158 votes
Brazil 165 votes
Cuba 135 votes
Ecuador 128 votes
Guatemala 142 votes
Mexico 154 votes
Peru 145 votes
Uruguay 141 votes

NOT elected:
Nicaragua 119 votes
Venezuela 101 votes

(In addition to the final announced GRULAC candidates for election, Costa Rica (which had earlier withdrawn its candidacy) received 6 votes, Honduras (which had earlier withdrawn its candidacy) received 3 votes, and Colombia received 1 vote.)

18. WEOG: The seven WEOG seats were filled from among the 9 announced candidates in the first round of balloting. Voting details follow:

Elected:
Canada 130 votes
Finland 133 votes
France 150 votes
Germany 154 votes
Netherlands 137 votes
Switzerland 140 votes
United Kingdom 148 votes

NOT elected:
Greece 117 votes
Portugal 122 votes

USUN NEW Y 00000946 005.2 OF 005

(In addition to the announced WEOG candidates, Spain obtained 1 vote.)

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